

NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2026



Pip



Scott



Claire



Alice



Frances

We want to help you

Works+ is busy creating new opportunities for residents across the wider Borders community.

Whether you're looking for a new job, exploring training opportunities, interested in volunteering, or wanting to gain valuable skills and experience, we're here to support you every step of the way.

Whatever your goals, get in touch with our team and let us help you find the opportunities that are right for you!



Calling Everyone!!

Have you finished school? A parent looking to get back into work? Or maybe just need some extra help? Not sure what to do next? Want to explore your next steps - training/ education?

Kickstart your future with guidance and support from Works+!

- Get tips on CVs & applications
- Learn interview skills
- Connect with local employers and job opportunities
- Meet others on the same journey

We have a 16-24 employability course and an all-age 1-1 programme available in Galashiels and Eyemouth. If you would like to find out more, please get in contact by email.



www.worksplus.works



enquiries@worksplus.works



pip@worksplus.works
(Galashiels)



alice@worksplus.works
(Eyemouth)



No One Left Behind Good News Story

Hallie – Works+ Success Story

Background

Hallie joined Works+ in April 2026 following a difficult period in her education and personal life. Negative experiences at both school and college had significantly affected her confidence and wellbeing, leaving her unsure of her future and struggling to move towards employment.

Hallie was experiencing severe mental health challenges, including depression and episodes of self-harm. Her anxiety and deteriorating mental health had also resulted in seizures, some of which occurred during her appointments with Works+. Despite these significant barriers, Hallie remained determined to build a career working with children.

Challenges and Barriers

Hallie faced multiple barriers to employment, including poor mental health, low confidence, limited work experience, and no previous employment within the childcare sector. She also lacked practical employability skills, including a CV and experience of applying for jobs.

In addition, Hallie believed that her only route into a childcare career would require travelling more than three hours each day to attend college, which she felt would have been extremely difficult to manage alongside her health.

These barriers were addressed throughout her engagement with Works+ through personalised one-to-one support, confidence building, employability coaching, and opportunities to gain practical childcare experience in a supportive environment.

Hopes and Aspirations

From the outset, Hallie was clear about her ambition to work in childcare. Her motivation never wavered despite the challenges she faced, and she was eager to gain the experience and qualifications needed to begin a career supporting children.

Her goal was to secure meaningful employment locally, allowing her to develop professionally while continuing to manage her health and wellbeing.

Pre-Employment Support

An individual action plan was developed with Hallie to help her build the confidence, skills and experience needed to enter the childcare sector.

Support included:

No One Left Behind Good News Story

- Regular one-to-one employability and wellbeing support.
- CV creation and development.
- Job searching and application support.
- Interview preparation and confidence-building activities.
- Ongoing encouragement to overcome barriers related to anxiety and mental health.
- Identifying suitable volunteering opportunities to gain practical childcare experience.

Recognising Hallie's passion for childcare but lack of experience, Works+ arranged volunteering opportunities with Busy Bees Childcare Playgroup at Eyemouth Parish Church, followed by additional experience with a Highways Nursery in Eyemouth.

These placements allowed Hallie to develop practical childcare skills, build confidence, gain employer references and demonstrate her commitment to the sector.

When a vacancy arose for an After School Practitioner at Dunbar Childcare and After School Club, Works+ supported Hallie to prepare her application and tailor her CV. With her new experience and increased confidence, Hallie successfully secured the role.

In-Work Support

Works+ continued to provide encouragement and support as Hallie prepared to begin employment, ensuring she felt confident transitioning into her new role.

This opportunity is particularly significant as Hallie will now be able to complete her SVQ Childcare qualification through her employment. Rather than travelling long distances to attend college, she can earn, learn and develop her qualifications locally while gaining valuable practical experience.

Regular contact has continued to ensure Hallie settles into employment successfully and feels supported as she begins this exciting new chapter.

Achievements, Outcomes and Impact

Hallie has successfully secured employment as an After School Practitioner with Dunbar Childcare and After School Club.

This represents a life-changing outcome. Through the support provided by Works+, Hallie has overcome significant barriers relating to her mental health, confidence and lack of work experience.

The volunteering placements provided invaluable practical experience and gave Hallie the confidence to pursue employment in her chosen career. She is now working in a role she is passionate about while completing her childcare qualifications through work.

Securing local employment has removed what Hallie believed was an overwhelming



barrier to entering the childcare profession and has provided her with a realistic, sustainable career pathway close to home.

Her journey demonstrates remarkable resilience and highlights the importance of personalised, person-centred employability support.

No One Left Behind Good News Story

Overall Client Comments

"Before Works+, I didn't think I'd ever get a job in childcare. I wouldn't have seen the vacancy, I wouldn't have known how to apply, and I didn't even have a CV. The volunteering gave me experience and confidence, and the support I received every step of the way made all the difference. I honestly can't thank Works+ enough for helping me get where I am today."

Assigned Worker's Comments

"Hallie's determination to work in childcare never changed, despite the significant challenges she was facing with her mental health. Throughout her journey she showed incredible resilience and commitment. It has been inspiring to watch her confidence grow from someone who doubted she would ever work in the sector to someone who has secured local employment and is now beginning a rewarding career while working towards her SVQ qualification. Hallie's success is a fantastic example of what can be achieved through personalised support, practical experience and believing in someone's potential."

Eyemouth

- Delighted that one of our group has now secured a place at Northumberland College
- Works+ recently funded a CSCS training course for another young man from Eyemouth
- One of our participants is excited to be awarded a place on the bloom media training
- Two of our group are now volunteering at the Clothes Loop in Chirnside
- Two of our group have now secured jobs in eyemouth

Galashiels

- Three of our participants are joining bloom media; they are running story lab
- One of our group started volunteering at Cafe Recharge to gain experience baking in a hospitality environment
- Three of our participants recently secured jobs in Galashiels and surrounding areas
- One of our participants went on to study at Open University
- One participant has gone on to join Pizza Punks in peebles



MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING



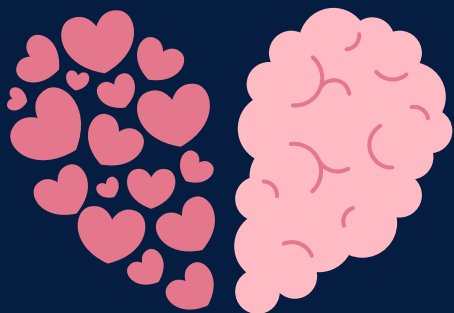
Mental Health & Wellbeing

Support that starts with you

Our Mental Health and Wellbeing Practitioner, Claire Bell, offers a gentle and understanding approach. Sessions are informal and collaborative, giving you the time and space to explore your experiences, identify any barriers and begin working towards your goals.

The right support at the right time

Our initial support is offered through Tier 1 sessions. If, together, we feel that you would benefit from more specialist or ongoing support, we can discuss this with you and explore suitable services.



Together, we can:

- Talk through the difficulties and challenges you're experiencing
- Explore how your mental health may be affecting your daily life and plans for work
- Identify your priorities and set realistic, achievable goals
- Take positive steps towards building confidence and motivation
- Develop helpful routines, coping strategies and ways of managing difficult thoughts and feelings
- Use practical resources and tools to support your progress between sessions

There is no pressure to have everything figured out. We'll take things one step at a time, building on your strengths and recognising your progress along the way.



Where appropriate, we can help you understand your options and support you through the referral process, so that you can access the right help at the right time.

Our aim is to make sure you feel welcomed, valued and listened to, with a trusted support network around you as you work towards your wellbeing and employment goals.



www.worksplus.works



enquiries@worksplus.works



pip@worksplus.works
(Galashiels)



alice@worksplus.works
(Eyemouth)

OPPORTUNITIES

Works+ Activity in Eyemouth

Works+ is continuing to develop a range of additional opportunities for young people in Eyemouth, designed to build confidence, develop practical skills and qualifications, improve employability, and provide positive experiences beyond traditional classroom-based learning.



Driving Theory Course

Works+ will deliver a five-week Driving Theory Course in partnership with experienced instructors Colin Nicol and Greg Davidson. The course will support up to 10 young people and will combine classroom-based theory with practical, vehicle-based learning and experience. Colin and Greg previously delivered a successful Driving Theory Course at Eyemouth High School in partnership with the local police, achieving a 100% pass rate.



CSCS Health & Safety in a Construction Environment



Works+ will also support young people from Eyemouth to undertake the CSCS Health and Safety in a Construction Environment qualification, delivered by Bruce Robertson. This is the mandatory health and safety qualification required to apply for a CSCS card and will provide young people with a recognised qualification that can help them access employment and apprenticeship opportunities within the construction sector.



Women's Surf Therapy and Wellbeing

A one-day Women's Surf Therapy session will be delivered in partnership with Groundswell Scotland. The session will provide a women-centred opportunity to develop confidence, improve wellbeing and build connections through surfing and outdoor activity, drawing on Groundswell Scotland's experience of delivering surf therapy and community wellbeing programmes across East Lothian and the Scottish Borders.



Outward Bound Residential Experience

During summer 2026, Works+ also supported young people to participate in a residential Outward Bound course with the Outward Bound Trust. The experience provided participants with opportunities to develop confidence, resilience, teamwork and independence through outdoor and adventure-based activities. Works+ plans to build on this opportunity in 2027, encouraging more young people from Eyemouth to access Outward Bound residential programmes.



Together, these activities complement the core Works+ employability provision by giving young people access to practical qualifications, career-focused experiences, confidence-building activities and opportunities to develop skills, resilience and independence.

All of the above activity has been funded through the Drone Hill & NnG East Berwickshire Fund, administered by Foundation Scotland, enabling Works+ to provide these additional opportunities to young people in the Eyemouth community.



www.worksplus.works



enquiries@worksplus.works



pip@worksplus.works
(Galashiels)



alice@worksplus.works
(Eyemouth)

YOUTH JOB GRANT FOR BUSINESS'



The Youth Jobs Grant gives businesses £3,000 for every person aged 18 to 24 you take on across Great Britain who has been on Universal Credit and looking for work for six months or more.

Benefits for employers:

Receive a £3,000 grant per eligible hire. This will be made in 2 payments, £1,800 paid after week 6 of the young person's employment and £1,200 paid after week 18

Access a pipeline of young people actively seeking employment

Reduce your employment costs while building a loyal, motivated workforce

The Youth Jobs Grant is part of the Government's Youth Guarantee, which also includes the Jobs Guarantee for young people out of work or education for over 18 months. Young people cannot take part in the Jobs Guarantee and Youth Jobs Grant at the same time.

Is your business eligible?

If you're ready to hire someone aged 18 to 24 who has been on Universal Credit for six months or more and is looking for work, you could qualify for the Youth Jobs Grant.

Jobs must be at least 25 hours per week and expected to last at least 4 months to be eligible for a Youth Jobs Grant.

How to get involved

To find out more about how the Youth Jobs Grant can help you with funding to recruit a young person, download the Youth Jobs Grant Toolkit.

Want to apply for a grant today?

The form takes around 20 minutes to complete, and you will be asked to accept some terms and conditions as part of the application.

If you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact lesley.knighting@dwp.gov.uk



1 Find out

If you have queries fill out the online form or call Employer Services today on **0800 169 0178**.

A local Recruitment Consultant will call you back to discuss how we can support.

2 Apply

To apply for the scheme go to **Youth Jobs Grant - Find A Grant** for the application form and **Youth Jobs Grant - Guidance** for terms & conditions and Grant Guidance which advises on how to complete the form.

3 Employer checks

Once we have received your completed application, we will assess your eligibility (see T&Cs and grant guidance for details) and notify you by email.

4 Job checks and matching

Assuming success in employer checks, we will invite you to submit vacancy details which we will check for suitability (see T&Cs.)

Approved vacancies will be added to the scheme, promoted through DWP and matched to young people to be recruited through your preferred recruitment process.*

5 Hiring

Once you have selected the successful candidates, you should let us know who this is and confirm when they will start employment so we can ensure they are eligible. We will provide you with a template to do this.

6 Grant payment

When you hire an eligible young person through the scheme, checks will be conducted to ensure the young person has been paid by you.

Once verified, and grant conditions have been met, **payment of £3,000 will be issued** - across two instalments:

- £1,800 after 6 weeks
- £1,200 after 18 weeks

